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Voting in Illinois

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This brochure has been designed to answer some of the more common questions about voting and registration procedures in Illinois.

May a person who changes his/her name vote?

If a person has a change of name within 28 days, he may vote only after completing the appropriate affidavit. He must, however, be registered to vote under his former name and continue to reside in the same precinct. The affidavit must be accompanied by a supporting affidavit. A woman who continues to use her maiden name after marriage may vote without an affidavit if she is registered under her maiden name.

If a person goes to vote and finds that his name is on the poll sheet, but not in the binder, may he vote?

A person listed on the poll sheet, but not in the binder, may vote after completing the appropriate affidavit. This affidavit must be accompanied by a supporting affidavit, signed by a qualified voter in the precinct. In Cook County and in jurisdictions under a Board of Election Commissioners, two supporting affidavits are required.

A person is discharged from the military within 60 days prior to the election, may he vote even if not registered?

Non-registered veterans who have left active service within 60 days of the day of election may vote after completing an affidavit. This affidavit must be accompanied by a supporting affidavit. Spouses and dependents, however, must be registered in order to vote.

If a voter moved within his precinct within 28 days just prior to the election, may he vote?

Yes. Any registered voter who moved within the precinct within 28 days of

election day, must complete the appropriate affidavit with a supporting affidavit before being allowed to vote.

If a voter moved outside of his precinct within 30 days just prior to the election, may he vote?

Yes. If he is still an Illinois resident, he may vote in person by affidavit only at the polling place where he was previously registered.

If a voter moved outside of his precinct more than 30 days before the election, may be vote?

Not unless he transferred his registration more than 28 days before the election.

If a person goes to vote and finds that the election judges have no record that he is registered, may he vote?

He may vote by affidavit only if his registration is verified by phone or in writing by the election authority. His affidavit must also be accompanied by two supporting affidavits signed by voters residing in the precinct.

If a voter whose name appears in the binder and on the poll sheet is challenged on some other specific qualification, may he vote?

If the judges uphold the challenge, he may vote by affidavit. This affidavit must also be accompanied by a supporting affidavit signed by a voter residing in the precinct.

If a person receives an absentee ballot, but now plans to vote in person on election day, what should he do?

When he goes to the polls he must surrender his absentee ballot at the time he completes his application or sign a statement that he never received his absentee ballot. He may then vote in person.

Can a person who is 17 years old register to vote?

Yes. However, he must be 18 years old by election day.

A student lives on campus at a university, but his family lives in another town, where can he vote?

He can vote only from the location that he has declared as his permanent residence, that is, where he is registered. He cannot register and vote from both locations.

Under what circumstances is a person limited to voting for president and vice-president only?

Unregistered voters temporarily out of their county of residence and registered voters who have moved outside their election precinct within 30 days prior to the election may vote by absentee ballot for president and vice-president only.

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To qualify to register to vote you must:

- be a U.S. citizen
- be 18 years old by election day
- be a resident of Illinois for 30 days before the election

When registering, two forms of identification are REQUIRED — one form of identification must have the applicant's address.

To maintain your registration you must:

- vote at least once every four years
- notify your County Clerk or Board of Election Commissioners of any change of address or change of name

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The State Board of Elections

A primary goal of the State Board of Elections is to help bring about a greater understanding of and participation in the electoral process. *Authorities on Illinois elections are available as speakers for civic organizations, school groups and the general public.*

For more information on election laws and procedures, write or call the State Board of Elections.

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